

The relationship between avoidable hospitalisation and primary care

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*Statements belonging to the dissertation:
The relationship between avoidable hospitalisation and primary care.
Aldo Rosano, Maastricht 22 December 2014.*

1. Primary care matters in order to prevent avoidable hospitalisation. This is achieved mainly by prescribing diagnostic services for the management of chronic diseases, like diabetes, asthma and COPD.
2. The above relationship has been found both at regional level and at General Practice level. This makes it a solid finding.
3. The capacity of accessible and good quality primary care to prevent avoidable hospitalisation is specially observed among GPs working in team practice.
4. To enhance the capacity of primary care to prevent avoidable hospitalization through an early diagnosis of the conditions and encouraging GPs to work in team constitute robust tools for healthcare policy and practice: 5 to 10% of the avoidable admissions could be prevented therefore saving resources for the health care system.
5. The creation in Italy of departments of primary care at all faculties of medicine will substantially improve the quality of primary care.
6. In Italy the budget cuts in the health care systems mostly concerned the hospital system. Further cuts jeopardize the health care system as whole. Therefore the efficiency of care delivery should be pursued with changes in the organization of the system, starting from primary care.
7. Organisational arrangements that integrate primary, secondary and social care are the way forward in reorganising the Italian health care system.
8. Social cohesion may facilitate primary care access for patients living in low-supply areas.